

industry makes certain that women will continue to demand a prominent part in every walk of life.

While the entry of additional thousands of women into the industries has been heralded in press and magazine, there has been, likewise, a less publicized infiltration of women into all the phases of business. In every office of size in the land, I venture to say, already men have been supplanted by women, or at any rate, such an interchange will be necessary as the demands for manpower in our armed forces and in the heavy industries is felt increasingly.

On the other hand, a development that was not foreseen is operating to remove a certain proportion of women from the professions and the offices, and even from industry. I refer to the development of such organizations as the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, known as the WAACS, and the WAVES, and the other military and semi-military organizations which now have been authorized to accept enlistments, and in which the business and professional women naturally are sought as prospective leaders.

If it is felt, however, that women are doing all that will be expected of them in connection with the war effort, many of our people are due for a rude awakening. Secretary of War Stimson told the House Military Committee today that, by the end of 1943, America will have under arms a force of approximately 7,000,000 men.

What this will mean in the Nation's every-day life is difficult, indeed, to grasp. Even now, the Selective Service Drafts each week and month are leaving more and more gaps in the ranks of our men at home. Certainly when an additional 3,250,000 men are taking from the accustomed places in life to swell our military and naval forces, there will be a need for women, the like of which even the most ardent proponent of women's emancipation never foresaw, I am sure.

The immediate effect will be that many women of all ages, who up to this time have not felt that there was a place for them in the National picture, will have to come forward and take their place in the great army of women workers. Not only will this swell the ranks of the business and professional women, but it will take many older women who possibly have never been inside a factory in their lives, and it will put them at the lathes and work benches, doing jobs that in many cases, as experience has shown, they can do really better than their brothers and husbands.

Even now, in the fields of precision instruments, for instance, and in radio and similar industries, the great bulk of workers are women. This utilization of service will spread, I am convinced, until even in such activities as airplane building, women may soon far exceed men.

All this, of course, makes for dislocation of the economic balance between man and woman. This dislocation isn't making itself felt so severely now, because there is work enough for all and, in fact, more work at hand than there seem to be workers available. Once the war effort slackens, however, and the need for quantity production ceases, the competition for jobs will emphasize the advances that women have made in employment.